

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03013 191122 Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /096 W
----- 112127

R 191032 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
SUSSAG NKP
USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3013

E. O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, LA
SUBJECT: PACE OF LAO NEGOTIATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. RLG DEL CHIEF NGON SANANIKONE TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 19 THAT HE HAS RESUMED TWICE- DAILY MEETINGS WITH LPF NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH SINCE THEY RETURNED FROM LUANG PRABANG NEW YEAR' S CEREMONIES APRIL 16. ALTHOUGH PHOUN CONTINUALLY EXPRESSES PLEASURE WITH COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS-- PROBABLY, NGON SAYS, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOW BEING HELD IN NGON' S AIR- CON- DITIONED SITTING ROOM DURING UNUSUAL HOT SPELL IN VIENTIANE-- NO PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. LPF CONTINUES TO DEMAND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERSHIP OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT AND REFUSES RLG' S COUNTER OFFER OF PRESIDENCY OF JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL INSTEAD. LPF IS STANDING FIRM ON DEMAND FOR INTERIOR AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRIES AND REFUSES RLG COUNTER OFFER OF FINANCE INSTEAD.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 03013 191122 Z

2. NGON SAID RLG WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON ITS DESIRE TO KEEP DEFENSE, INTERIOR, NEW " EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS" MINISTRIES IN NON- COMMUNIST MINISTERIAL HANDS. ON MILITARY SIDE, NGON SAID HE AND PHOUN HAD TEMPORARILY SHELVED NEGOTIATION OF LPF CEASEFIRE LINE PROPOSAL AND OF LPF TERMS FOR NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. HE STRESSED TO EMBOFF THAT RLG RELUCTANCE TO TURN OVER PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY TO LPF WAS NOT CAUSED BY HIS OWN DESIRES TO RETAIN HIS POSITION AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. IN FACT, HE SAID, IF LPF WAS GIVEN PUBLIC WORKS, HE COULD MAKE STRONG CLAIM FOR FINANCE OR INTERIOR MINISTRIES FOR HIMSELF.

3. NGON ASSESSED PROSPECTS FOR IMMEDIATE PROGRESS IN PRIVATE TALKS AS VERY DIM. HE SPECULATED, HOWEVER, THAT LPF DESIRE TO MAINTAIN TWICE- DAILY PRIVATE NEGOTIATING FORUM, AND ITS WILLINGNESS TO FOREGO BORADER WEEKLY TUESDAY " PROGAGANDA SESSIONS," COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT LPF MIGHT EVENTUALLY MOVE QUICKLY INTO SERIOUS BARGAINING PHASE WHEN HANOI GIVES THE SIGNAL.
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, LA
To: BANGKOK
CINCPAC
EA
JEC PARIS
PHNOM PENH
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC

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